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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/11/2019
TAGS: [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [BA](#)
SUBJECT: ATTORNEY GENERAL ON PARDON OF ADEL SALEH

REF: A. MANAMA 241
[1](#)B. MANAMA 220
[1](#)C. MANAMA 83
[1](#)D. MANAMA 62

Classified By: Ambassador Adam Ereli for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: Bahrain's Attorney General confirmed that two others convicted in absentia in the same case as Adel Saleh were not covered by the royal pardon of April 11. He added that Saleh is subject to a travel ban. End Summary.

[1](#)2. (C) DCM met twice over the past month with the MFA's Under Secretary to express concern over the pardon of Adel Saleh (ref A). DCM also raised the issue with the chief of Bahrain's armed forces, the commerce minister, and the finance minister. On May 10 DCM and Pol/Econ chief met with Attorney General Ali bin Fadhel Al Buainain. DCM reiterated our concern over the pardon, inquired about the status of the other two men convicted in the same case (ref B), and asked about the GOB's future plans for Saleh. Al Buainain confirmed that Saleh was covered by the King's April 11 pardon of 178 security-related detainees, and that he was released 32 days prior to the completion of his one-year sentence. Al Buainain said Ahmed Abdulrahman Shihab and a Syrian named Khattab were not pardoned, and the GOB has been in touch with Interpol to obtain an arrest warrant for them. Though Al Buainain believed Shihab and Khattab were in Afghanistan, he said it was important to involve Interpol so as to restrict their movement.

[1](#)3. (C) Al Buainain explained that Saleh, though pardoned, remains subject to a travel ban, and the Bahrain National Security Agency (BNSA) is holding his passport. He said BNSA was monitoring Saleh's activities and movements.

[1](#)4. (C) Comment: Based on our experience with the GOB's handling of other Sunni extremists, we expect Saleh will be monitored indefinitely as Al Buainain described. Bahraini authorities will likely also employ warnings, inducements, and family pressure to keep him away from new extremist activity.

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